

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 03853 301119Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----301121Z 030668 /17

R 300900Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3281
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 3853

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET, US
SUBJECT: USG/GOS RELATIONS

REF: STATE 310713 (NOTAL)

1. WILL CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS PARA 1 REFTEL AS SOON AS THERE IS
UNRELATED REASON FOR ME TO ASK SEE IDRIS AGAIN.

2. RE NIMEIRI'S SECOND-HAND REMARK THAT HIS EFFORTS IN ERITREA
"BEGINNING TO BEAR FRUIT", ASSUME THIS MAY IMPLY SOME SORT
INDEPENDENT STATUS FOR PROVINCE. GOS APPEARS HAVE WRITTEN
OFF CHANCES MEDIATING ERITREAN SETTLEMENT WITH PRESENT DIRG WHICH
IT SEES AS EMBARKED ON COURSE OF FULL COOPERATION WITH COM-
MUNISTS AND LIBYA (KHARTOUM 3827). ACCORDINGLY, NIMEIRI WELL MAY
NOW BE INTERESTED IN ASSURING THAT CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS
FIRMLY CONTROL ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT AS PRELIMINARY
ESTABLISHMENT SOME SORT BUFFER REGIME BETWEEN RED SEA
AND ETHIOPIAN HINTERLAND UNDER RADICAL CONTROL. IN THIS
SENSE, THERE MAY NOT BE INHERENT CONTRADICTION IN NIMEIRI'S QUOTED
REMARKS SINCE HE NO DOUBT THINKS OF MEDIATION IN TERMS OF REMOVING
PROBLEM ALONG HIS EASTERN BORDER RATHER THAN STRENGTHENING
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RADICAL DIRG IN ADDIS.

3. IDRIS CLEARLY HARBORS EXAGGERATED IDEA OF SUDAN'S FUTURE
REGIONAL ROLE. WHILE NIMEIRI MIGHT PUT CASE WITH LESS
EFFERVESCENCE, BELIEVE HE DOES CONSIDER T AT, AS POTENTIALLY
WEALTHY AND LARGEST STATE IN AFRICA WITH EIGHT DISPARATE NEIGHBORS

SUDAN'S STRATEGIC POSITION AND PROSPECTS DO CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR
HIM TM PLAY GREATER ROLE IN REGIONAL DISPUTES IN THIS PART
OF CONTINENT THAN MANY ADJACENT RULERS. BREWER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PROVINCE, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KHARTO03853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760476-0037
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976124/aaaaades.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 310713
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG/GOS RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET, US, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006